recommendations. According to the information given by Department of Expenditure, the scale of Rs. 10,650-15,200 has not been allowed in any case and as such its existence as a separate pay scale or as a part of any standard pay scale does not arise.

(c) The details of the Assured Career Progression Scheme introduced for the Central Government civilian employees are contained in Department of Personnel and Training Office Memorandum No.35034/1/97-Estt.(D) dated August 9,1999.

Status of LS and RS Secretariat Employees

2974. SHRIKAMAL AKHTAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in various competitive examinations conducted by Staff Selection Commission, the employees of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha Secretariats are not provided with the certain relaxation due to Government employees;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to take them into the list of Government employees to extend them various relaxation as given to Government employees; and

{c} whether there is also a fact that many employees of these Secretariats have been deprived of taking the examination in recently conducted Combined Matric Level (Prel.) Examination by SSC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Since there is no provision for treating employees of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha Secretariats as Central Government civilian employees, such employees are not given benefit of age relaxation admissible to Government employees. Hence, *the question* of depriving the employees of Lok Sabha and Hafya Sabha Secretariats from taking any examination by the Staff Selection Commission (SSC) does not arise.

Backlog vacancies of SCs and STs

2975. SBFtf PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: WiRthe PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: